

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No.: 16497.1.1.2.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael T. Carley et al.

Serial No.: 10/787,073 ) Art Unit  
Filed: February 24, 2004 ) 3731  
Confirmation No.: 9513 )  
For: CLOSURE DEVICE )  
Examiner: Melanie Ruano Tyson )  
Customer No.: 057360 )

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

VIA eFILE IDS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record

believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided. The concise explanation for German Publication No. DE 297 23 736 U 1 is provided in the English abstract of that publication. The concise explanation for German Publication No. DE 197 11 288 is provided in the English abstract of that publication. The concise explanation for French Publication No. 2 443 238 A1 is provided in the English abstract of that publication. The concise explanation for French Publication No. 2 722 975 A1 is provided in the English abstract of that publication.

Please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3178 of the undersigned.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

/Fraser D. Roy, Reg.# 45666/  
FRASER D. ROY  
Registration No.: 45,666  
Attorney for Applicant  
Customer No. 057360

FDR:mjw  
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